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LB 379, 759

time, there's a lot of people in the rural areas that haven't paid any income tax for several years, and it will be several years, even if this economy does turn around, before they will be paying income tax because they've had expenses that they can carry forward. And so it's not going to generate as many dollars as they probably think. But I realistically think that this is the right way to go at the present time. So I will strongly support this, Hartnett's bill. So with that, I return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I will tell you the one thought that has repeatedly come to mind this afternoon, as I reflected upon what I'm learning. You always learn here every day. I'm certainly glad that we took the \$140 million off the table with the income tax credit when we did it. Because the one thing of which I'm absolutely certain is if we hadn't taken the \$140 million a biennium off the table when we did it and given the income tax cut that we gave, we would have spent it. I didn't used to believe that, but people tell me if you've got it you spend it. If you've got it, you spend it. That's what they expect of us. That's how we do it. That's what they think we do. And I've come to understand the truth of it. If we've got any surplus and we don't get rid of it, we spend it. And if we hadn't cut the \$140 million, we'd have it now as a part of our base and we'd be struggling with \$140 million more of a problem. I guess what I'm bothered by is that, gee, it isn't like we haven't touched income tax. A lot of us have been saying, for a long time, we need to revisit the cut and make an adjustment. So when we had our two and a half days of debate on LB 759, we did, in fact, agree to raise \$35 million from the income tax. Is that suddenly nothing? I'm not prepared to sit here before we have gotten together our revenue package and our spending package and say, oh, by the way, we'll hit this income tax issue twice; we'll strike while the iron is hot; we'll pile up \$70 million worth of revenue, just so we know we've got enough, and then we'll phase it back. There are those of us who have consistently advocated the lowest possible rates of any kind spread over the broadest possible base. I'll tell you what bothers me about this 35, this second